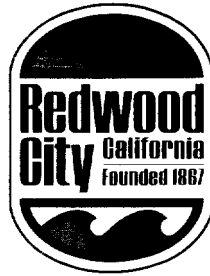


Fire Department

August 17, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455-12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554



755 Marshall Street
Redwood City, California 94063
Telephone (650) 780-7400
FAX (650) 780-7461

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2000

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RE: ULTRA-WIDEBAND ET DOCKET 98-153

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra-wideband radio.

My name is Edward R. Montez, Fire Chief of the Redwood City Fire Department. Redwood City, California is located approximately twenty (20) miles south of the City of San Francisco. We provide fire, EMS, Haz-Mat, rescue and other related emergency services to our community. I have been in the fire service for 29 years, and have experienced several major earthquakes here in California. In addition, there have been numerous occasions during fire and rescue operations where there was a need to locate and identify potential victims in emergency situations whether it was a building collapse, or in a heavily smoke-filled atmospheres. A device that could assist in accomplishing such rescues would be essential and, perhaps critical.

It is my understanding that Time Domain Corporation of Huntsville, Alabama has requested a waiver from FCC to develop and test pulsed radar equipment that can work through walls as well as more precise technology that improves emergency communications. It is my understanding that to obtain a waiver this company must prove that there is an established need, which could be utilized in emergency situations. I am writing this letter to urge you to grant this waiver for the reasons that I discussed above. This is a potential life-saving technological tool that will assist emergency responders improve the way locations of victims are identified, and allow for their safe and efficient rescue from dangerous situations. I believe that the potential capability of this new technology to improve emergency communications would be widely accepted in the California fire and emergency services. Currently, the Redwood City Fire Department has undertaken a wireless computer system, which allows our fire apparatus to communicate with the City server and draw valuable information to the scene of an incident. It appears that the wireless technology potential of this product will facilitate the way mobile field information is transmitted. I urge the FCC to consider moving forward in granting the waiver to Time Domain allowing this company to continue their research of the potential capabilities of this scientific resource. Ascertaining the emergency component of their technology will improve the dynamics of providing better communications, and a more effective technological tool during search and rescue operations. I will look forward to maintaining close contact with this company to assist and advise them in developing the parameters of the emergency services as it relates to this new technology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis J. Vella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" and "V".

LOUIS J. VELLA, Admin. Chief/Fire Marshal for

EDWARD R. MONTEZ, Fire Chief
Redwood City Fire Department

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